



# Bitterroot National Forest

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **“Travel Restrictions Around Gash Creek Fire will Be Lifted on Friday”**

Hamilton, Montana, September 14, 2006 — Citing significantly decreased fire activity on the Gash Creek Fire, Bitterroot National Forest officials announced this afternoon that all travel restrictions associated with the Gash Creek Fire will be lifted on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The temporary restrictions prohibiting public entry into Gash Creek, Sweathouse Creek, Smith Creek and the lower reaches of Big Creek due to public safety concerns related to a wildfire were rescinded by Forest Supervisor Dave Bull. Both Forest Supervisor Bull and Stevensville District Ranger Dan Ritter appreciate the public’s cooperation with the closures, and are pleased that the area is once again open for public use. Forest users are reminded to use extra caution when traveling through burned areas. Burned snags fall with little provocation or warning.

Recreationists, wood cutters and other forest visitors are reminded that despite the cooler temperatures and spotty moisture, forests remain relatively dry and caution must still be exercised on forested lands. Stage 1 fire restrictions will go into affect early Friday morning. Campfires and use of charcoal briquettes will only be allowed in developed recreation sites or campgrounds, and only in the metal or concrete fire rings provided at the site. Fires within rock fire rings are not permitted. The public can continue to use gas stoves fueled solely by liquid fuel or LPG fuels outside of developed recreation sites during Stage 1 restrictions. In addition to the campfire restrictions, smoking is prohibited except within buildings, vehicles, developed recreation sites, or while stopped in an area that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials for at least three feet in diameter.

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